

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

AF-10 ISO-00 EUR-25 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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P R 121005Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7442

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 6143

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO, AORG, SG

SUBJECT: UNESCO DG SUCCESSION

NAIROBI FOR DR. MOREY

REF: DAKAR 1223

1. PERMDEL GENERALLY CONCURS WITH OPTION A PARA 5 OF REFTTEL. ALL EVIDENCE POINTS TO M'BOW WINNING RACE EVEN THOUGH HIS BANDWAGON HAS TEMPORARILY BEEN STALLED DUE POSTPONEMENT OAU MEETING AND POSSIBILITY LA'S MIGHT PUT FORTH CANDIDATE.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH SENEGAL DEPPERMDEL TODAY, INFORMED OAU WILL MEET IN KAMPALA APRIL 27 AND M'BOW WILL BE ENDORSED AT THAT TIME. IN VIEW RELATIVELY LONG WAIT FOR OAU (WITH CAVEATS SUGGESTED BELOW) OPTION A WOULD SEEM BEST COURSE AT THIS TIME. EVEN THOUGH SUCH A CONFIDENTIAL ENDORSEMENT MAY COME TO FURFACE, WE CAN STATE THAT OUR OFFICIAL POSITION WILL NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL AFTER OAU MEETS. WE CAN CONTINUE PUBLICLY TO INDICATE STRONG LEANING TO M'BOW AND NEITHER CONFIRM OR DENY FACT OF ENDORSEMENT. THE MESSAGE WILLGET THROUGH AND THIS MAY DISCOURAGE OTHER CANDIDATES FROM ENTERING FIELD AND WE CAN GET JUMP ON SOVIETS.

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3. REGARDING NOTIFICATION OF MAHEU, PERMREP WOULD RECOMMEND

THAT WE NOT INFORM MAHEU OF OUR INTENT TO SUPPORT M'BOW UNTIL JUST BEFORE WE MAKE THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT. IT WILL BE EASIER TO DEAL WITH MAHEU IF HE IS STILL NOT COMPLETELY SURE OF OUR INTENT AND WE CAN CONTINUE TO SAY THAT WE AWAIT ACTION OF THE OAU BEFORE MAKING A FORMAL COMMITMENT. ONCE WE KNOW EXACT TIMING OF OAU MEETING AND ARE ASSURED OF ITS ENDORSEMENT WE CAN THEN APPROACH MAHEU. PERMREP FEELS A LETTER, PROBABLY FROM THE ASST SECRETARY, EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR MAHEU'S YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE BUT STATING USG WILL SUPPORT M'BOW, MAY SOFTEN BLOW. IT COULD BE HANDED TO HIM AT TIME HE IS INFORMED WE ARE GOING TO ENDORSE M'BOW PUBLICLY.

4. AS TO M'BOW, WE CONCUR THAT HE SHOULD BE TOLD OF OUR INTENT TO SUPPORT HIM BUT WE CAN SAY THAT WE WILL AWAIT FORMAL ACTION OF THE OAU BEFORE MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT PUBLIC AND URGE HIM NOT TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT INDICATING OUR SUPPORT. OF COURSE HE WILL LIKELY INFORM SOME OF HIS AFRICAN COLLEAGUES AND HE WOULD, IN ANY CASE, BE INFORMED OF ANY COMMITMENT MADE IN DAKAR.

5. FINALLY WE MAY WISH CONFIDENTIAL TO INFORM THE GENEVA GROUP OF OUR DECISION TO PUBLICLY SUPPORT M'BOW FOLLOWING THE OAU ENDORSEMENT. EVEN IF SOME OF THEM JUMP THE GUN AND ANNOUNCE BEFORE US IT WILL HAVE SHOWN OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT WITH THEM AT A POINT IN TIME SOMEWHAT BEFORE OUR PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AND NOT SEEM AS IF WE ARE WAITING TO THE LAST MINUTE TO TAKE OUR FRIENDS INTO OUR CONFIDENCE.

6. IN CONCLUSION, PERMREP PROPOSES:

(A) PROMPT CONFIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN DAKAR AND TO M'BOW AS PER OPTION A

(B) INFORMING QUIETLY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF GENEVA GROUP PRIOR TO MEETING OA OAU -- WE WOULD SUGGEST AFTER THE MEETING OF THE EXBD SPECIAL COMMITTEE WHICH ENDS APRIL 2.

(C) FORMALLY INFORMING MAHEU JUST BEFORE OAU MEETING.

(D) PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER OAU -- ASSUMING THEY MEET SOME TIME LATTER PART OF APRIL.
STONE

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